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GALLATIN RIVER COMMUNICATIONS L.L.C.
AND ESSEX TELCOM, INC.

Joint Petition for Approval of Negotiated
Interconnection Agreement
Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252

CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE

NO. 06 -0582

VERIFIED JOINT PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF NEGOTIATED
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN GALLATIN RIVER
COMMUNICATIONS L. L. C. AND ESSEX TELCOM, INC.

Gallatin River Communications L.L.C. ("Gallatin") and Essex Telcom Inc. ("Essex") hereby request that the Commission review and approve the attached Interconnection Agreement between Gallatin and Essex (the parties), pursuant to Sections 252(a)(1) and 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, 47 U.S.C. §§ 252 (a)(1) and 252(e), (the "Act"). The parties, in support of their request, state as follows:

1. Petitioners Gallatin and Essex are each a telecommunications carrier within the meaning of Section 13-202 of the Universal Telephone Service Protection Act of 1985, 220 ILCS 5/13-100, et seq., and each is authorized to provide telecommunications service to customers in Illinois.

2. The Agreement was arrived at through good faith negotiations between the parties as contemplated by Section 252(a) of the Act and provides for the interconnection of their networks for the transmission and termination of local traffic on each other's networks.

3. Section 252(e)(2) of the Act provides the basis for rejection of a negotiated Agreement: (1) the Agreement discriminates against another carrier or (2) implementation of a negotiated Agreement would not be consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity. Neither basis for rejection is present here.

4. As set forth in the attached Verified Statement of Steve Murray, Gallatin will make the Agreement available to any other telecommunications carrier operating within its territory. Other carriers are also free to negotiate their own terms and conditions pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Act. For this reason, the Agreement is not discriminatory.

5. In addition, the Verified Statement of Steve Murray demonstrates that implementation of the Agreement is consistent with the public interest because it will promote competition and enhance the ability of Essex to provide Illinois telecommunications users with a competitive alternative for telecommunications services.

6. In accordance with Section 252(e)(4) of the Act, the Agreement will be deemed approved if the Commission does not act to approve or reject the Agreement within 90 days from the date of this submission.

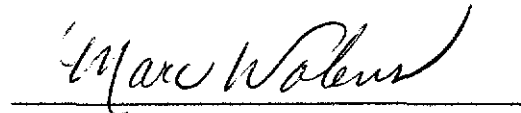
7. Copies of the Agreement are available for public inspection in Gallatin's public offices.

WHEREFORE, Gallatin and Essex respectfully request that the Commission approve the attached Interconnection Agreement, between Gallatin and Essex under Section 252(e) of the Act as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted this 24th day of August, 2006.

GALLATIN RIVER COMMUNICATIONS L.L.C.
COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

ESSEX TELCOM, INC

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David O. Rudd", written over a horizontal line.A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Marc Wolens", written over a horizontal line.

David O. Rudd
Attorney for Gallatin River Communications L.L.C.
625 South Second Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704
217/744-7420
dorudd@aol.com

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
)
COUNTY OF LEE) ss.

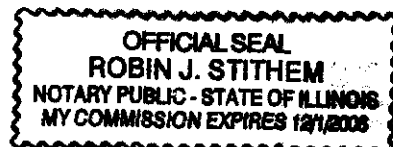
MARC WOLENS, being first duly sworn, deposes and states that he is PRESIDENT for Essex Telecom, Inc. and that he is authorized by Essex to make this verification; that he has read the above and foregoing Joint Petition for Approval of a Negotiated Interconnection Agreement, between Gallatin and Essex and knows the contents thereof; and that said contents are true to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief.

Marc Wolens

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a notary public for the State of IL this 21st day of AUGUST, 2006.

Robin J. Stithem
Notary Public

My commission expires: 12/1/06

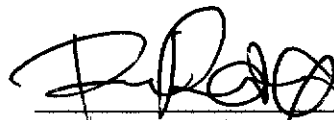


STATE OF ILLINOIS

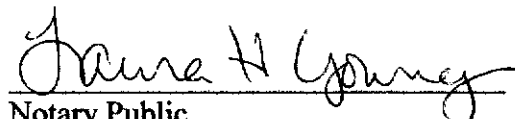
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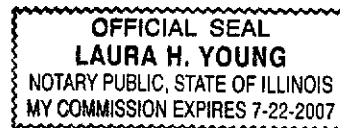
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) ss.
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David O. Rudd, being first duly sworn, deposes and states that he is an attorney for Gallatin River Communications L.L.C. and that he is authorized by Gallatin River Communications L.L.C. to make this verification; that he has read the above and foregoing Joint Petition for Approval of a Negotiated Interconnection Agreement between Gallatin and Essex, and knows the contents thereof; and that said contents are true to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief.


David O. Rudd, Esq.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a notary public for the State of Illinois this 25th day of August, 2006.


Notary Public



My commission expires: 07-22-2007

STATE OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

GALLATIN RIVER COMMUNICATIONS L.L.C.
AND ESSEX TELCOM, INC.

Joint Petition for Approval of Negotiated
Interconnection Agreement
Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252

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NO. 06 _____

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF JOINT PETITION FOR APPROVAL

I, Steve Murray, in my capacity as Director of Regulatory Affairs for Gallatin River Communications L.L.C. ("Gallatin"), hereby submit this Statement in Support of the Joint Petition for Approval of a Negotiated Interconnection Agreement between Gallatin and Essex Telcom, Inc. ("Essex").

The attached Interconnection Agreement ("the Agreement"), including provisions for collocation and related telecommunications services under the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (sometimes referred to as "the Act"), between Gallatin and Essex was reached through voluntary negotiations between the parties. Accordingly, Gallatin and Essex request approval pursuant to Sections 252(a)(1) and 252(e) of the Act.

In accordance with Sections 251 and 252 of the Act, the parties engaged in good faith negotiations and an agreement was reached in August 1 of 2006. The Agreement becomes effective the next business day following the day the Illinois Commerce Commission approves the Agreement.

The Agreement contains provisions for default and prohibits discontinuance of service without the required notice. It also includes dispute resolution provisions. It allows Essex to interconnect at any one or more technically feasible points.

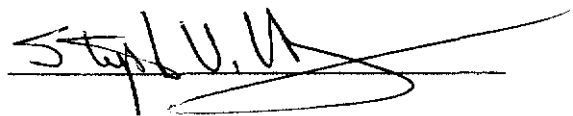
Also, the Agreement contains alternative dispute resolution provisions, which require negotiation and arbitration. The parties are required to continue providing services to each other during the pendency of any dispute resolution proceeding. The Agreement is binding on successors and permitted assigns of the parties.

Gallatin will make the Agreement available (pursuant to 252 (I) of the Act) to any other telecommunications carrier operating within its territory. Other carriers are also free to negotiate their own terms and conditions pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Act. For this reason, the Agreement is not discriminatory.

Implementation of this Agreement is consistent with the public interest because it will promote competition and enhance the ability of Essex to provide Illinois telecommunications users with a competitive alternative for telecommunications services.

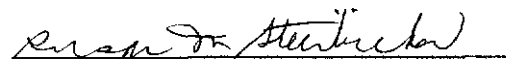
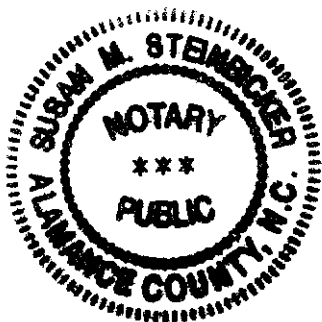
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF ALTA) ss.

Steve Murray, being first duly sworn, deposes and states that he is Director of regulatory Affairs for Gallatin River Communications L.L.C. and is duly is authorized by Gallatin River Communications L.L.C. to make this verification; that he has read the above and foregoing Statement in Support of Joint Petition for Approval and knows the contents thereof; and that said contents are true to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief.



Steve Murray
Gallatin River Communications
103 South 5th Street
Mebane, NC 27302
(919) 563-8109

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a notary public for the State of NORTH CAROLINA this
21ST day of August, 2006.


Notary Public

My commission expires: 11-24-2009